TRACKS 2006 ATLANTA, GA

Implementing The Tracking Network

breakout ABSTRACT

Abstract No. 26

TITLE

INTEGRATION OF DIVERSE DATA SOURCES FOR ESTABLISHING A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DATABASE LINKED TO ENVIRONMENTAL DATA.

TRACK

Network Content

OBJECTIVES

The learner will better understand: 1) the importance of strong partnerships in achieving successful developmental disabilities and PCB surveillance; 2) the extent of collaboration and data sharing agreements differs for each data source; 3) having a direct exchange of information enables the proper use and understanding of the diverse data sources used; 4) linkage to environmental data sources can be applied to other toxins and 5) linkage of correct address information is crucial in obtaining an understanding of the potential exposure picture.

SUMMARY

The goal of this project is to track developmental disabilities in children ages 0-10 years for linkage with polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminant data in Berkshire County. In pursuing this goal, collaboration with the Massachusetts DPH Early Intervention Program, Massachusetts Department of Education (MDOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), local school districts and intrastate agencies has been essential. Creation of a developmental disabilities database that could be successfully linked with environmental data was dependent on the partnerships established with the various agencies. Complying with strict interpretation of the FERPA Law (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C 1232g) is one example of how obtaining database information required extensive coordination with individuals and departments within the state as well as the MDOE and local school districts in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. The FERPA law protects students' privacy for education records and requires parental consent for any release of this information. Extensive collaboration resulted in a developmental disabilities database that is linked with PCB contaminant data. Application of geographic information systems has allowed for exploration of health trends in relation to PCB contamination to ultimately determine the need for follow up. These mapping techniques can be used to analyze individual address locations as well as areas such as parks and vacant lots that may significantly contribute to a child's exposure to PCBs.

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CDC CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

NATIONAL Environmental Public Health Tracking Program